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HORSE
COMICS**

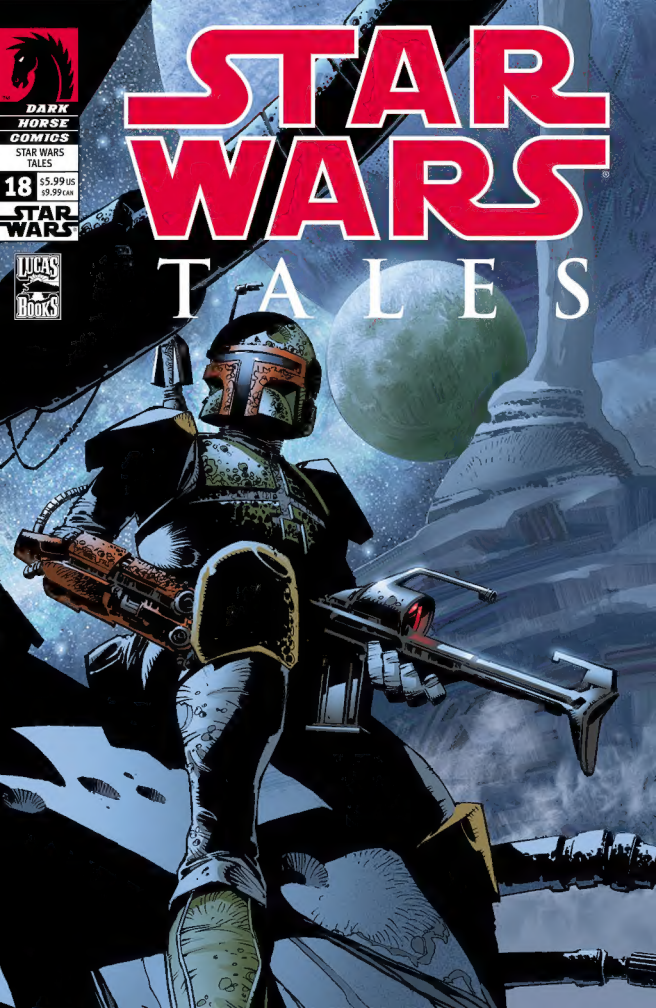
STAR WARS
TALES

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**STAR
WARS**



STAR WARS TALES



COMING SOON!

Here's more *Star Wars* reading that you won't want to miss!

STAR WARS: EMPIRE #17

To the Last Man part #2 (of 3)

by WELLES HARTLEY, DAVIDÉ FABBRI, and
CHRISTIAN DALLA VECCHIA
cover by DAVID MICHAEL BECK

Imperial Lt. Janek Sunber wanted to see action, and now his wish has come true—in spades! Sunber's infantry regiment on the jungle world of Maridun is cut off from the rest of the Empire. Their communications have been destroyed, and their way out of the jungle is blocked by thousands of hostile native Amanin. Hopelessly out-numbered, they must choose between combat or surrender—but either decision may mean death!

On sale January 7

STAR WARS: INFINITIES-

RETURN OF THE JEDI #3 (of 4)

by ADAM GALLARDO, RYAN BENJAMIN, and
SALEEN CRAWFORD
cover by RODOLFO MIGLIARI

Han is rescued, but Luke has been captured, and Leia's determination to free him has led to a precipitous and premature attack on the Death Star! Meanwhile the Rebel ground troops on Endor have run into their own problems. It all leads up to a surprising setback for the Rebel Alliance - and for Luke Skywalker in particular! The events of *Return of the Jedi* have been altered from what you saw in the film! The characters are the same, but the adventure is all new!

On sale January 14

STAR WARS: REPUBLIC #61

by JOHN OSTRANDER and BRANDON BADEAUX
cover by BRIAN CHING

While the Clone Wars continue to hold the attention of the galaxy, sinister plans are afoot within the Senate. Senator Bail Organa's ship is attacked by pirates, and former Supreme Chancellor Valorum returns to warn any who will listen of treachery behind the scenes. With the Jedi away at the wars, it's up to citizen Senators to fight for the preservation of the Republic. But what chance do they have against the power of the Sith?

On sale January 21

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Special thanks to SUE ROSTONI
and LUCY AUTREY WILSON
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Advertising sales:

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STAR WARS[®] TALES

THIS ISSUE:

NUMBER TWO IN THE GALAXY

Story – Henry Gilroy
Art – Todd Demong
Colors – Jim Campbell
Letters – Steve Dutro

PAYBACK

Story – Andy Diggle
Art – Henry Flint
Colors – Chris Blythe
Letters – Steve Dutro
Editor – Philip W. Simon

BEING BOBA FETT

Story – Jason Hall
Pencils – Stewart McKenny
Inks – John Wycough
Colors – Dave Nestelle
Letters – Steve Dutro

WAY OF THE WARRIOR

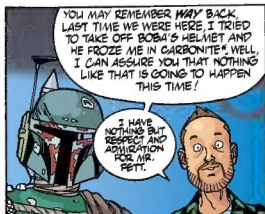
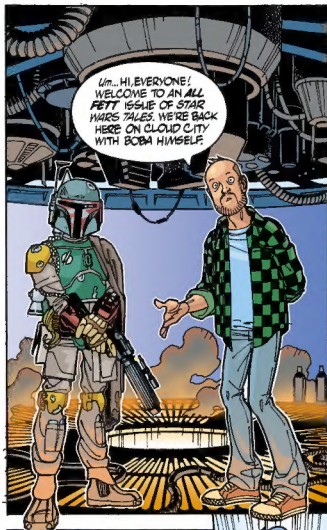
Story – Peter Alilunas
Art – Will Conrad
Letters – Michael Heisler
Editor – Jeremy Barlow

REVENANTS

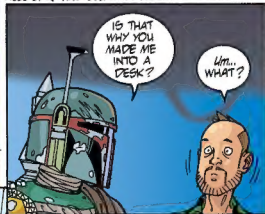
Story – W. Haden Blackman
Pencils – Dub with Niko Henrichon
Inks – Pierre-André Déry
Colors – Phiz
Letters – Steve Dutro

Cover – Cam Kennedy
Cover Colors – Chris Blythe





*SEE STAR WARS: BOBA FETT-AGENT OF DOOM




ISSUE EIGHTEEN


Script / DAVE LAND Art / LUCAS MARANGON
Colors / JASON HVAM Letters / STEVE DUTRO



NUMBER TWO IN THE GALAXY



"SOME SAY THE OLD REPUBLIC WEAPON MAKERS SETTLED ON MA'AR SHADDAM BECAUSE OF THE QUALITY ORE...




"OTHERS CLAIM IT WAS ITS REMOTE LOCATION, AS IT MADE POLICING OF ILLEGAL ARMS SALES IMPOSSIBLE."


"SO WHAT?"



"SO... EVERY FEW CYCLES ONE OF THESE **MASTER WEAPONSMITHS** IS PAID A VISIT..."



"... BY THE **FOREMOST** BOUNTY HUNTER IN THE GALAXY."



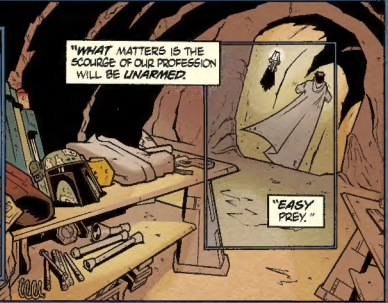
"AND THIS **SCUM**... HANDS OVER EVERY BIT OF HIS AMAZING ARSENAL..."

"...FOR MAINTENANCE."



"HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?"

KREECH



"WHAT MATTERS IS THE SCOURGE OF OUR PROFESSION WILL BE **UNARMED**."

"EASY PREY."



NO BETTER
CHANCE YOU'LL GET
TO SETTLE YOUR
DEBTS WITH **BOBA
FETT.**

«EVEN
UNARMED,
HE'LL NOT
FALL EASY.»

AGREED!
FETT **IS**
FETT.



NOT WITHOUT THE KNEE
DARTS HE USES TO
MERCILESSLY
BLIND

OR THE FLAME
PROJECTORS WITH
WHICH HE SO
CASUALLY **BRANDS**
DISHONOR.

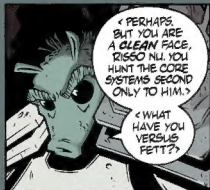
AND
HE WON'T HAVE
JETPACK MISSILES
TO RUTHLESSLY
BLAST OUR
PARTNERS.



TO
PIECES.



WITHOUT
HIS WEAPONS
AND ARMOR,
FETT IS NO
MORE THAN
YOU OR I.



«PERHAPS,
BUT YOU ARE
A **CLEAN** FACE,
RISSO NU. YOU
HUNT THE CORE
SYSTEMS SECOND
ONLY TO HIM.»

«WHAT
HAVE YOU
VERSUS
FETT?»

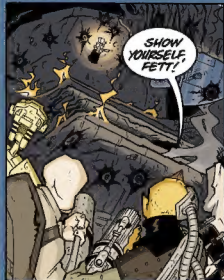


LIKE OTHERS, I
WOULD FORGE
MY LEGACY WITH
HIS DEFEAT.

FOR WHO
IN THE GALAXY
WOULD REFUSE
TO HIRE ONE
WHO BESTED
BOBA FETT?



AND
LIKE YOU SAY,
HE'S NUMBER
ONE. I WANT TO
BE NUMBER
ONE.





AND I'M
GLAD TO SEE
YOU, TOOSOG.

ASH!



ESPECIALLY
LIKE WHAT
YOU'VE DONE
WITH THE
EYE.

ZZZT

AND NOBODY
ACCESSORIZES
LIKE YOU
BITHIANS, eh,
EERMIK.

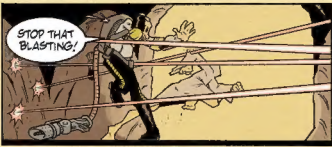


CURSE
YOU!



UOW

UOW



STOP THAT
BLASTING!

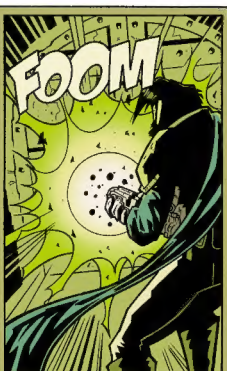


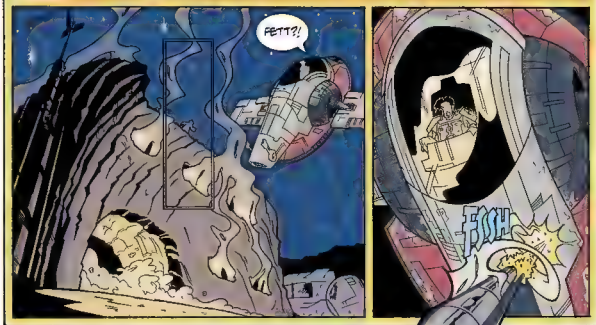
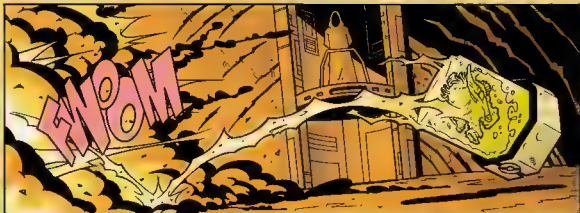
KA-WHOM

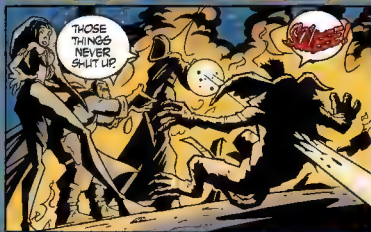
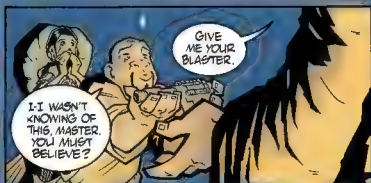


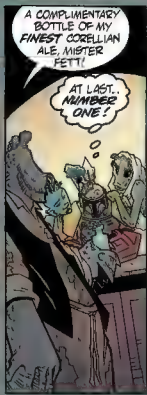
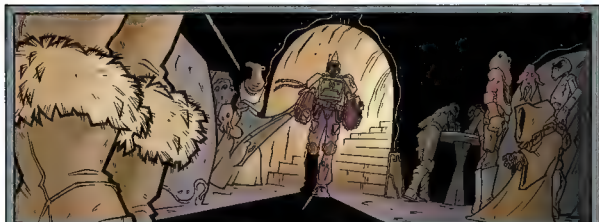
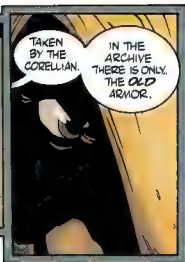
HAVE YOU **LAST WORDS** TO ME?

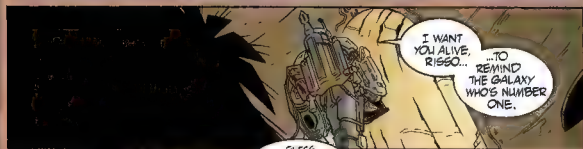
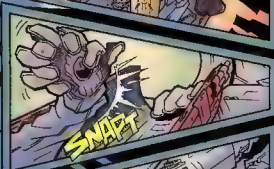
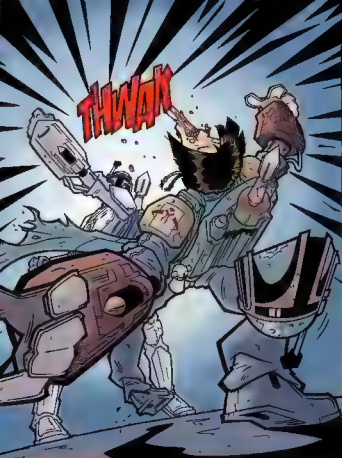












THE COURT OF DREX,
UNDISPUTED CRIME-LORD
OF THE GALLAFRAXIS
SYSTEM...

FETT! Tell
me- what news
of FELEN
BANTI...IAN...?

I'M CLOSE.
WORD IS HE'S
HOLED UP IN
THE VORNAX
SYSTEM.

FIRST, MY
FEE--FIFTY
THOUSAND, NOT
NEGOTIABLE.

Whatever you
ask, bounty hunter!
Just bring him
before me, dead
or alive!

That
verminous scab
killed my
son.

SPARE ME
THE SOB STORY,
DREX.

REVENGE
IS OF NO
INTEREST
TO ME..

...PAYBACK
DOESN'T
PAY.

PAYBACK

RIN ABANDONED
DROID PLANT IN
THE BADLANDS
OF VORNAX...

FELEEN
BANTILLIAN!
YOU HAVE
ONE CHANCE
TO LIVE!

SO, THE
INFAMOUS
BOBA FETT. YOU
DON'T WASTE
ANY TIME, DO
YOU?

THIS IS
GOING TO BE
EASIER THAN
I THOUGHT!

NO
TALK. DREX
WANTS
YOU.

WRONG,
BOUNTY HUNTER.
DREX IS MY
FATHER, AND HE
WANTS YOU!

YOU KILLED
MY BROTHER,
GAYRON SIL... AND
NOW WE'RE GOING
TO MAKE YOU
PAY!

THEY
NEVER
LEARN.

BZAM



Target:
Boba Fett!
ACQUIRED!

POOM!

FIDAMN

AAGH!

KRUMP

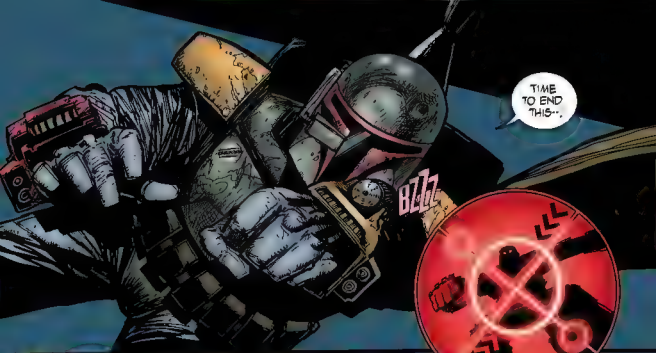
KRAK

ELBOW
ROOM!

JETPACK'S
CRIPPLED...
DROIDS
CLOSING IN...

BYZAM

SKIRAWNG



THE
WARRANT
ON YOU SAYS
DEAD OR
ALIVE,
BANTILLIAN...

...DEAD
IT IS!

BZAM

PANC

HAH! YOU
MISSED
ME!

ALL YOUR
RANCY TOYS,
AND THE GREAT
BOBA FETT
MISSED ME!

I WASN'T
JIMING AT YOU,
BANTILLIAN...

...I WAS
AIMING AT THE
TANK OF
MACHINE OIL.

HIGHLY
FLAMMABLE
MACHINE
OIL!

FWOOOOSH



AAAH!
AAAH! PUT
IT OUT!

I'M
BURNING!



BURNING!



SPLASH

SPLASH



GAH!
C-CAN'T...
SWIM--!

D-DROIDS!
H-HELP
ME--!



FLAT

SPLAT



KLUNK

KLANG



NO
SMARTER
THAN YOUR
BROTHER

THE COURT
OF DREX...

F FETT!
How did
you--?

I-it's
all here,
bounty
hunter.

THEN
THIS IS
YOURS.
PLUS A
LITTLE
SOMETHING
EXTRA.

N NO!
My beloved
FELEEN !

SIRE !
There's
something in
his mouth

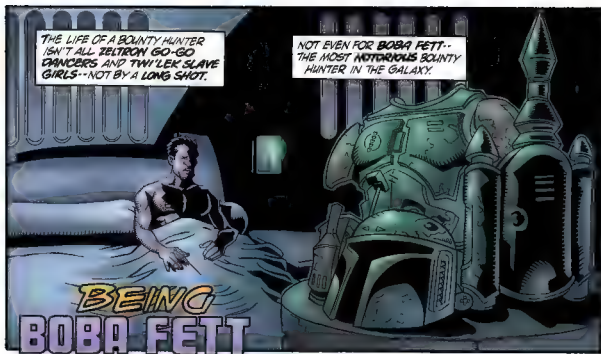
SURPRISED
TO SEE ME, DREX?
I CAN'T IMAGINE
WHY.

WE
AGREED FIFTY
THOUSAND, AND
I ALWAYS GET
MY TARGET.

THERMAL
DETONATOR.
SHOULD
HAVE LISTENED
TO ME WHEN YOU
HAD THE CHANCE,
DREX.

PAYBACK
DOESN'T
PAY!

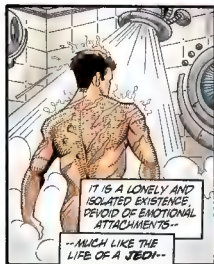
END



THE LIFE OF A BOUNTY HUNTER
ISN'T ALL ZELTRON GO-GO
DANCERS AND TWI'LEK SLAVE
GIRLS--NOT BY A LONG SHOT.

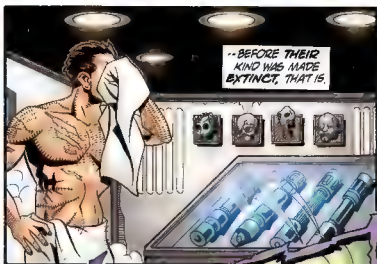
NOT EVEN FOR BOBA FETT--
THE MOST NOTORIOUS BOUNTY
HUNTER IN THE GALAXY.

BEING BOBA FETT

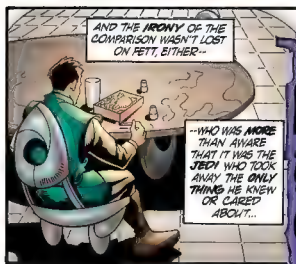


IT IS A LONELY AND
ISOLATED EXISTENCE,
DEVOID OF EMOTIONAL
ATTACHMENTS--

--MUCH LIKE THE
LIFE OF A JEDI--



--BEFORE THEIR
KIND WAS MADE
EXTINCT, THAT IS.



AND THE IRONY OF THE
COMPARISON WASN'T LOST
ON FETT, EITHER--

--WHO WAS MORE
THAN AWARE
THAT IT WAS THE
JEDI WHO TOOK
AWAY THE ONLY
THING HE KNEW
OR CARED
ABOUT...



...HIS
FATHER.

AS A CHILD, SEEING HIS
FATHER'S FACE FIRST THING
IN THE MORNING AND LAST
THING AT NIGHT WAS SOME-
THING THAT BROUGHT JOY
TO HIS LIFE.

CHINK

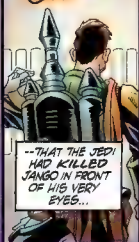


THAP



BUT NOW IT
WAS SIMPLY A
CONSTANT
REMINDER
THAT HIS FATHER
WAS GONE--

CLICK



--THAT THE JEDI
HAD KILLED
JANGO IN FRONT
OF HIS VERY
EYES...

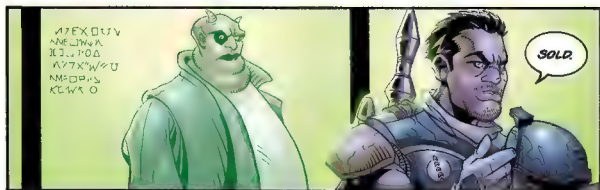
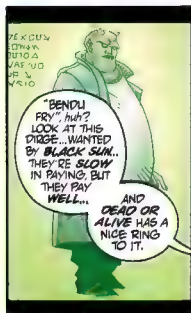
YANK

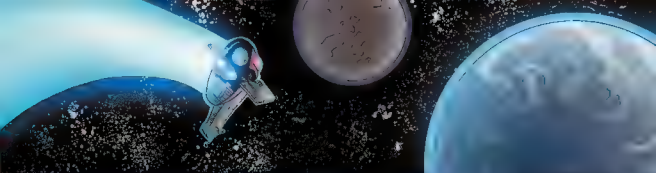


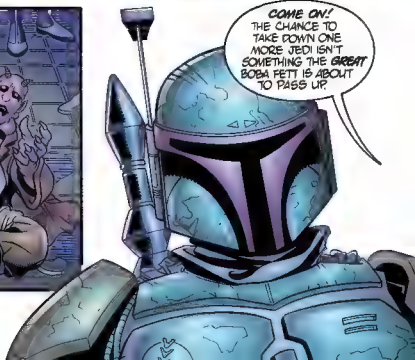
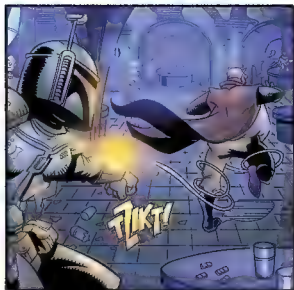
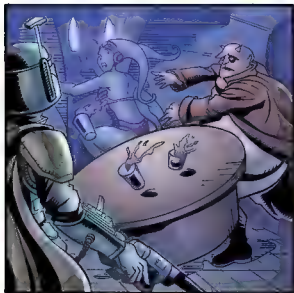
...FOR EVERY TIME
BOBA LOOKED INTO
THE MIRROR--

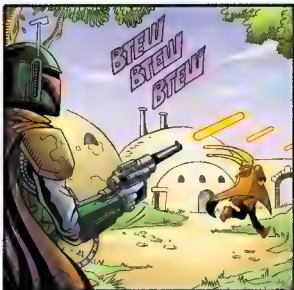
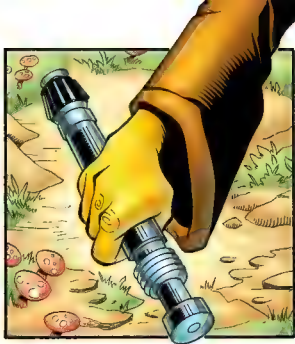


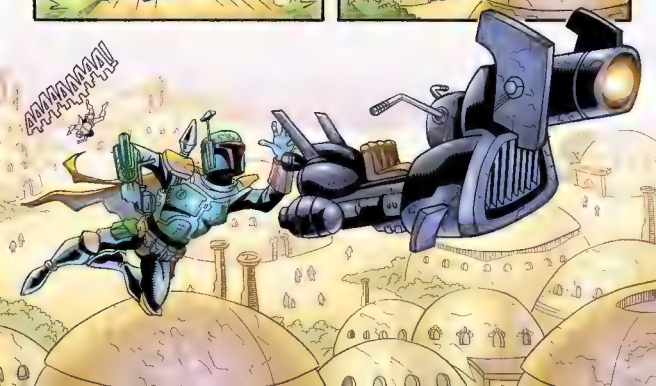
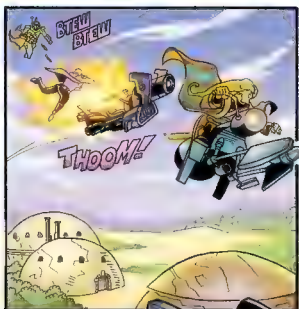
--HE SAW HIS
FATHER'S FACE
STARING BACK.

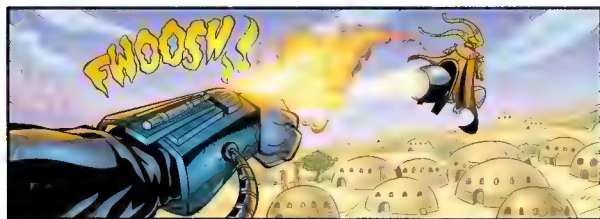
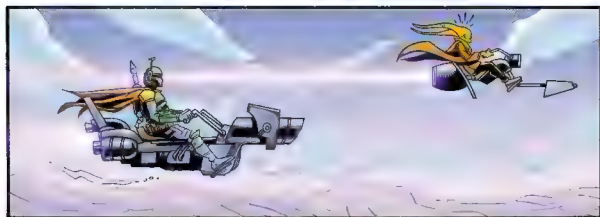
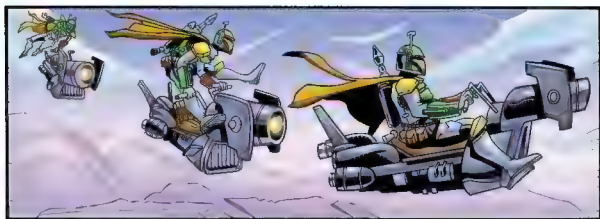


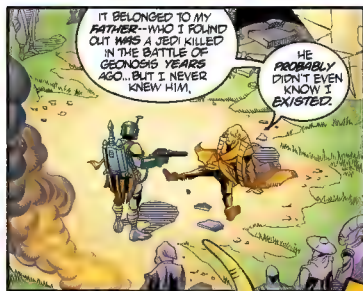
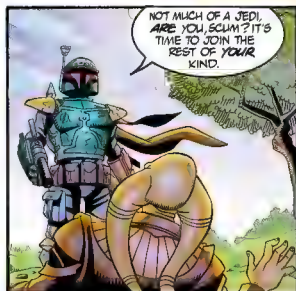


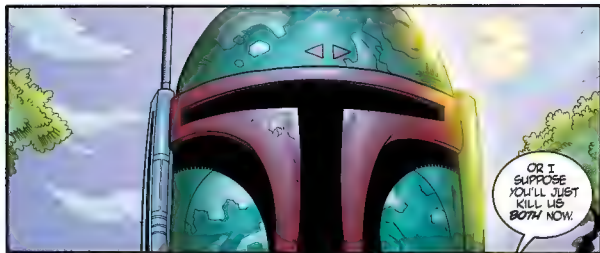
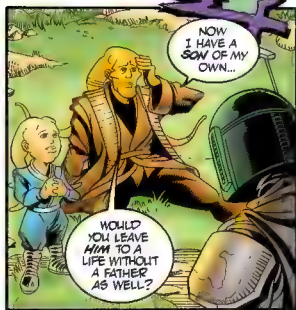


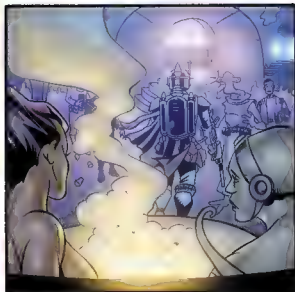


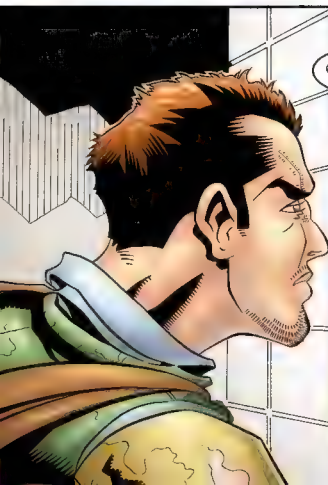
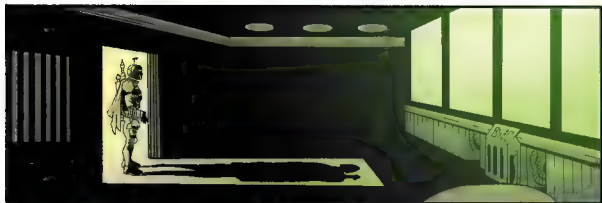












END


THE PLANET KLUAT.
ONE YEAR PRIOR
TO THE BATTLE OF
GEONOSIS.



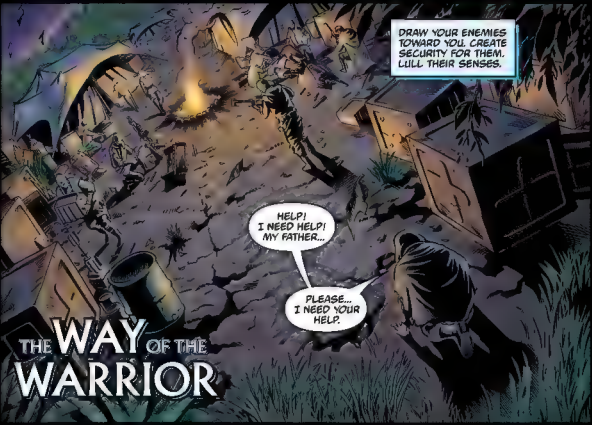
I MUST
BE BRAVE.



I MUST
REMAIN
FOCUSED.



RELEASE YOUR
FEARS. THEY OFFER
YOU NOTHING BUT
HESITATION AND
FAILURE.

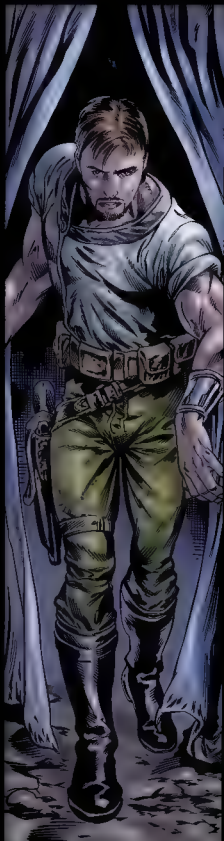


DRAW YOUR ENEMIES
TOWARD YOU. CREATE
SECURITY FOR THEM.
LULL THEIR SENSES.

HELP!
I NEED HELP!
MY FATHER...

PLEASE...
I NEED YOUR
HELP.

THE WAY OF THE
WARRIOR



WHAT'S THIS?
WHO LET THIS
STRAY WANDER
IN?

WHO ARE
YOU?

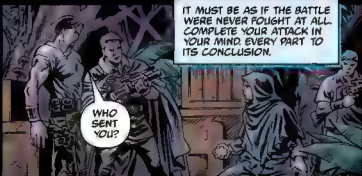


LISTEN, STRAY, THIS
ISN'T AN ORPHANAGE OR A
SUMMER CAMP. TELL ME
WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE,
OR I'LL THROW YOU BACK
TO THE WILD.

A WARRIOR MUST STAY
FOCUSED, ALERT, AND
READY FOR ANYTHING.
HE MUST NEVER LET
ANYTHING SWAY HIM
FROM HIS MISSION.

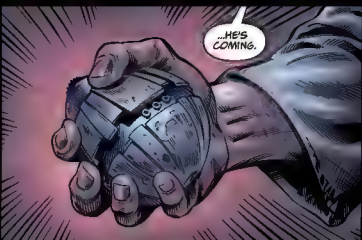


YES?
WHERE IS
HE?

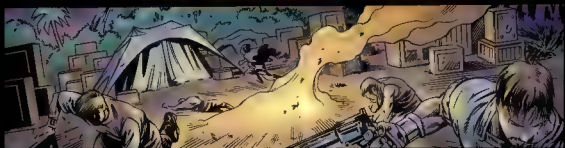
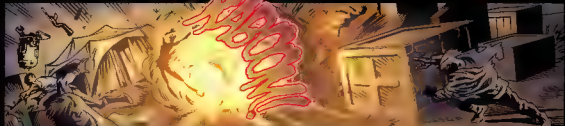


IT MUST BE AS IF THE BATTLE
WERE NEVER FOUGHT AT ALL.
COMPLETE YOUR ATTACK IN
YOUR MIND. EVERY PART TO
ITS CONCLUSION.

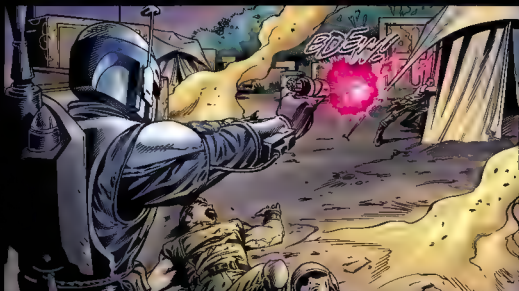
WHO
SENT
YOU?



...HE'S
COMING.









HE
WON'T LIKE
THIS.

KEEP QUIET. I'M
NOT CONCERNED WITH
WHAT HE LIKES.

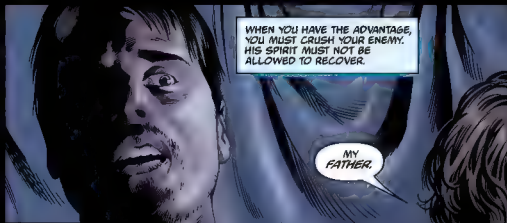


YOU WERE
FOOLISH TO
COME HERE, BOY.
WHO IS THAT
HUNTING ME
OUT THERE?

FIND YOUR ENEMY'S
WEAKNESS. DESTROY HIM
THROUGH HIS OWN FEAR.

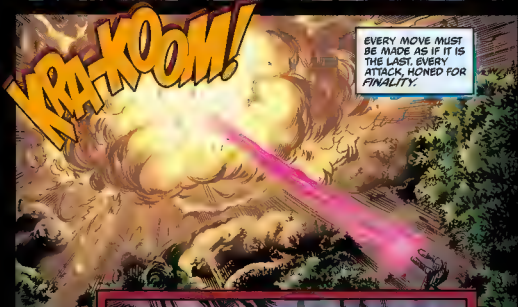


JANGO
FETT.



WHEN YOU HAVE THE ADVANTAGE,
YOU MUST CRUSH YOUR ENEMY.
HIS SPIRIT MUST NOT BE
ALLOWED TO RECOVER.

MY
FATHER.



YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST SWOOP DOWN AND DESTROY ALL WE'VE WORKED FOR? OUR VILLAGES, OUR FAMILIES ARE BEING WIPE~~D~~ OUT. THERE'S A LIFE OFF THIS PLANET, OUTSIDE OF THESE FACTORIES...

OUR CHILDREN WILL GROW UP ONLY TO FACE ENDLESS WORK INSIDE THOSE WALLS. DON'T THEY DESERVE A CHANCE FOR SOMETHING MORE?

I HAD A SON, ABOUT YOUR AGE. HE WAS FORCED TO WORK...THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT...

YOU MUST LET ME GO.

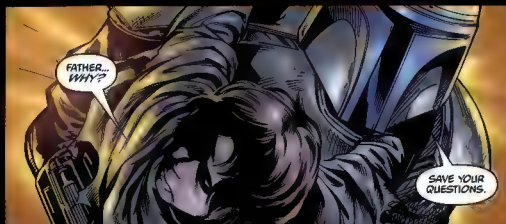
POLITICS AND EMOTION HAVE NO PLACE FOR THE WARRIOR. THEY MEAN NOTHING. STAY FOCUSED ON YOUR OBJECTIVE.

LARBO!
RELEASE MY SON. THIS IS YOUR ONLY CHANCE.

WHAT KIND OF MAN WOULD USE HIS OWN SON AS BAIT?

ONLY A SON CAN KNOW HIS FATHER'S HEART...

THE FIGHTERS!





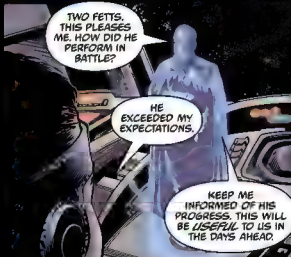
MISSION COMPLETE. THE ANARCHIST GROUP NO LONGER POSES A THREAT TO YOUR ALLIES.



EXCELLENT. YOUR LOYALTY HAS BEEN PROVEN AGAIN. CAN THE RULING FAMILIES COMMENCE WITH THEIR INTEGRATION PLANS?

YES. THEY CAN BEGIN THE TAKEOVER OF THE COLONIES. FACTORY CONSTRUCTION SHOULD ENCOUNTER NO FURTHER RESISTANCE.

ALSO, BOBA BEGAN HIS TRAINING ON THIS MISSION.



TWO FETTS. THIS PLEASES ME. HOW DID HE PERFORM IN BATTLE?

HE EXCEEDED MY EXPECTATIONS.

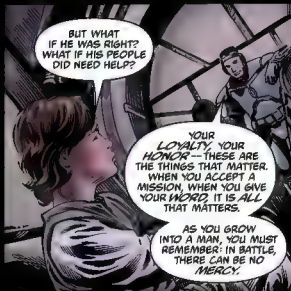
KEEP ME INFORMED OF HIS PROGRESS. THIS WILL BE USEFUL TO US IN THE DAYS AHEAD.



BOBA, YOU DID WELL.

LARBO TOLD ME ABOUT HIS PEOPLE, HOW HE WAS FIGHTING FOR THEIR FREEDOM. ABOUT HIS SON.

YOU ARE RIGHT TO EXAMINE YOUR ENEMY, TO SEEK OUT HIS MOTIVES. BUT WHAT HE FIGHTS FOR IS NOT IMPORTANT TO YOU—SYMPATHIZING WILL ONLY PREVENT YOU FROM COMPLETING YOUR MISSION.



BUT WHAT IF HE WAS RIGHT? WHAT IF HIS PEOPLE DID NEED HELP?

YOUR LOYALTY, YOUR HONOR—THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT MATTER. WHEN YOU ACCEPT A MISSION, WHEN YOU GIVE YOUR WORD, IT IS ALL THAT MATTERS.

AS YOU GROW INTO A MAN, YOU MUST REMEMBER: IN BATTLE, THERE CAN BE NO MERCY.



IT WAS THEN THAT I TRULY KNEW MY FATHER'S HEART, AND ALL THAT IT CONTAINED. AND I KNEW IT WAS ALSO MY HEART.

THIS IS THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR.

THE
END

SCOUNDREL TO PRINCESS, FILING MY
DAILY REPORT-- BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW
WHAT PAY IT IS... CHEWIE'S BEEN GONE
FOR A FEW MONTHS NOW, AND YOU
HAVE ME IN A BORROWED STARSHIP
CHASING RUMORS ON THE OUTER RIM.

I'M APPROACHING
RAXUS PRIME, AND HAVEN'T
SEEN ANYTHING STRANGE. ORDERING
LANDO TO PRAG ME OUT OF THAT
TAPCAFE ON CORUSCANT WAS A
WASTE OF EVERYONE'S
TIME.

THERE'S NOTHING
OUT HERE EXCEPT
GHOST SM PS.

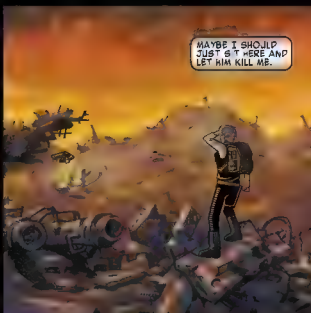
AND THE MEMORIES
OF DEAD MEN.

REVENANTS





RAXL'S PRIME IS A JUNKYARD WORLD. ANYTHING USEFUL HAS ALREADY BEEN SALVAGED.



MAYBE I SHOULD JUST STAY HERE AND LET HIM KILL ME.



BECAUSE THE ONLY WAY I'M GOING TO ESCAPE IS BY BUILDING A NEW STARSHIP OUT OF SCRAP.



THE WORK TAKES TWICE AS LONG WITHOUT A PARTNER.



I'D EVEN TAKE THREEPIO RIGHT NOW.



BUT THE DROIDS, LUKE-- AND ANYONE ELSE USEFUL-- ARE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GALAXY FIGHTING THE YULZHAN VONG-- WITH YOU.



I REMEMBER
WHEN I USED
TO BE USEFUL.



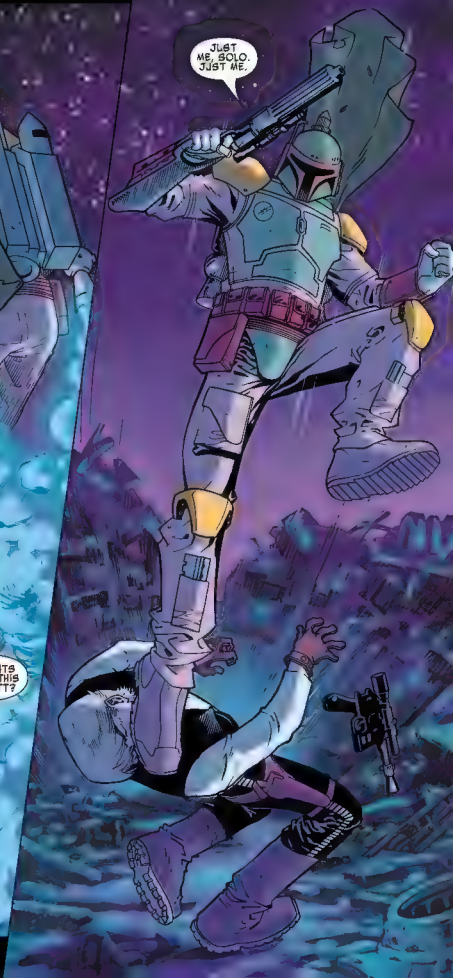
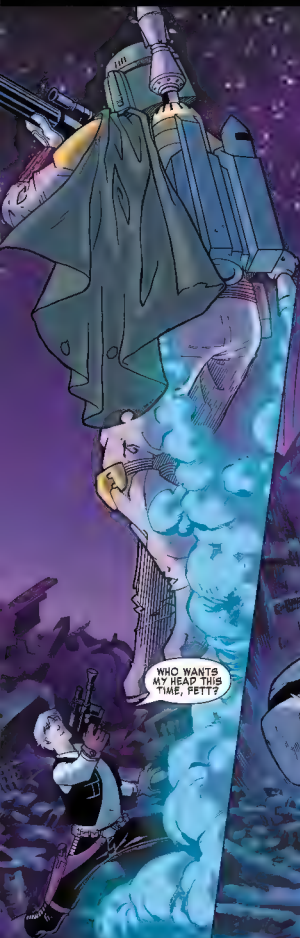
BUT I STILL HAVE
A FEW CARDS LEFT
TO PLAY.

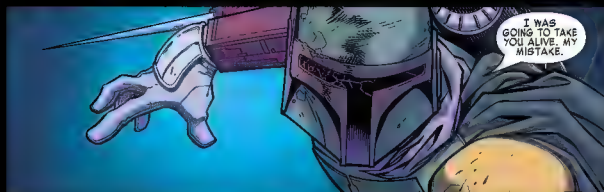


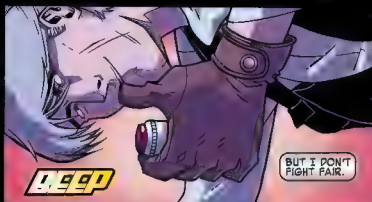
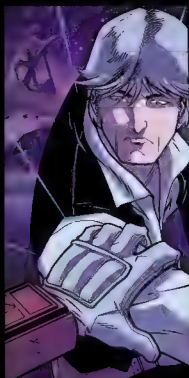
I JUST NEED TIME
FOR MY HAND TO
DEVELOP.

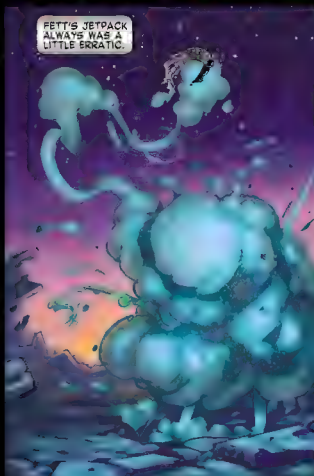
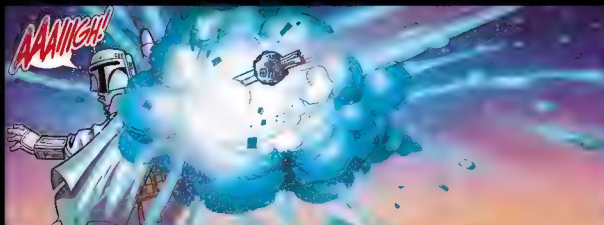


AND I'M STILL THE
FASTEST DRAW IN
THE GALAXY.











SCOUNDREL TO PRINCESS--I'M NOT SURE IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET THIS REPORT...



...I'VE BEEN SEARCHING THIS ROCK ALL DAY AND HAVEN'T FOUND ANYTHING THAT RESEMBLES A WORKING STARSHIP.

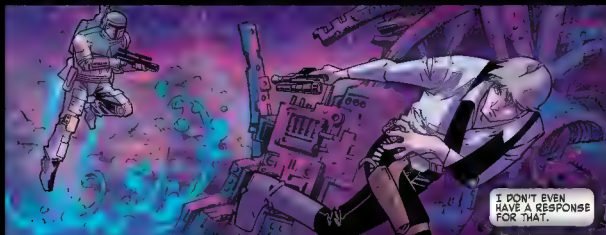


I'M GOING TO TRY--

AAAAUGH!



WHEN YOU SEE THE WOOKIEE, TELL HIM I WANTED TO KILL YOU BOTH...

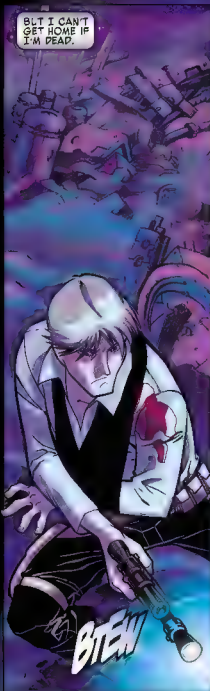


I DON'T EVEN HAVE A RESPONSE FOR THAT.

A PUMPING GROUND FOR
SOLID FUEL CELLS. I COULD
USE A FEW OF THESE TO
POWER A STARSHIP.



BUT I CAN'T
GET HOME IF
I'M DEAD.



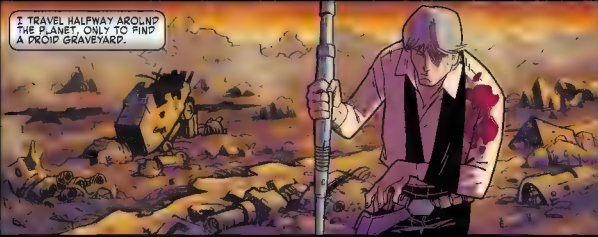
AAAAIEEEEE!!!

BOOM

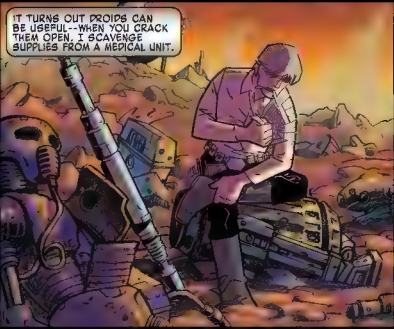


LET'S
SEE YOU
GET UP FROM
THAT.





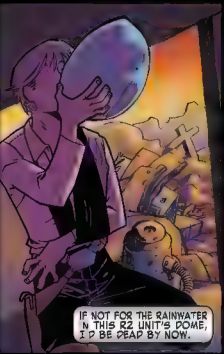
I TRAVEL HALFWAY AROUND
THE PLANET, ONLY TO FIND
A DROID GRAVEYARD.




IT TURNS OUT DROIDS CAN
BE USEFUL--WHEN YOU CRACK
THEM OPEN. I SCAVENGE
SUPPLIES FROM A MEDICAL UNIT.



IT'S AMAZING
ANYTHING
SURVIVES
OUT HERE.



IF NOT FOR THE RAINWATER
IN THIS R2 UNIT'S DOME,
I'D BE DEAD BY NOW.



NOT THAT ANYTHING
STAYS DEAD ON
THIS PLANET.

SCOUNDREL TO PRINCESS,
I'VE FINALLY PUT IT ALL
TOGETHER...



...I WAS STARTING
TO THINK THAT THIS
WAS ALL IN MY HEAD.



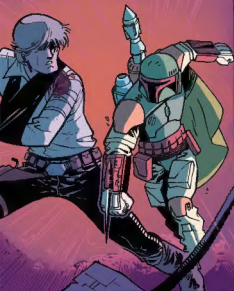
THAT MAYBE I JUST
SPENT THE LAST WEEK
FIGHTING GHOSTS.



TRYING TO
KILL A MAN
I CAN'T KILL.



BUT NOW IT'S STARTING
TO MAKE SOME SENSE.
FETT'S NOT JUST ONE
MAN. HE'S AN ARMY.



AND MAYBE THERE
HAS ALWAYS BEEN
MORE THAN ONE
OF HIM.



HOW COULD ONE MAN DO
ALL THE THINGS THEY SAY
FETT'S DONE?



HOW COULD ONE MAN
ALWAYS FIND ME, NO
MATTER WHERE I WENT
IN THE GALAXY?



HOW COULD ONE
MAN DIE AGAIN
AND AGAIN?



RIGHT. WHO
AM I KIDDING?



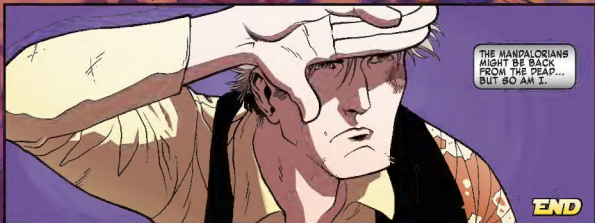
THERE IS ONLY ONE
BOBA FETT.







SCOUNDREL TO PRINCESS--
TELL EVERYONE I'M COMING HOME.
HAVE THE FALCON POWERED-UP AND
READY. WE'RE GOING TO BLAST THE
VONG BACK TO THEIR OWN GALAXY.
AND IF FETT GETS IN MY WAY, I'LL
SEND HIM TO HELL.



THE MANDALORIANS
MIGHT BE BACK
FROM THE DEAD...
BUT SO AM I.

END